

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 23 and 24; amend claims 17, 20 and 25; and add new claims 29-32..

17. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said rolling unit has a window communicating with said second portion of said channel and said means for changing the permeability of the wrappers includes means for perforating at least one of the wrapper and the strip of each of said series of products by way of said window.

20. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said rolling unit includes an endless band having an external surface constituting a portion at least of said at least one of the first and second surfaces, and a stationary rolling member having a surface constituting said other surface, said second portion of said channel being defined by said endless band and said rolling member.

25. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said means for changing the permeability of the wrappers includes means for simultaneously perforating the wrappers of several successive products in said second portion of said channel.

29. (New) Apparatus for treating smokers' products of a type wherein a rod-shaped component is surrounded by a tubular wrapper carrying a deformable strip, comprising:

a rolling unit having surfaces defining a channel and including first and second surfaces at least one of which moves relative to the other thereof, said channel having an inlet and an outlet;

means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the strips thereabout in a first portion of the channel at said inlet; and

means for changing the permeability of the wrappers during rolling at least in a second portion of the channel between said first portion and said outlet,

wherein a portion of one of the first and second surfaces is stationary and flat,

wherein said rolling unit includes an endless band having an external surface constituting a portion at least of said at least one of the first and second surfaces, and a stationary rolling member having a surface constituting said other surface, said second portion of said channel being defined by said endless band and said rolling member, and

wherein said endless band comprises three endless sections, one of said sections being flanked by the other two of said sections and said other sections cooperating with said stationary rolling member to define said second portion of said channel, said three sections cooperating with a further band to define said first portion of said channel and said rolling unit further comprising means for deflecting said one of said sections from said channel between said first and second portions of said channel.

30. (New) Apparatus for treating smokers' products of a type wherein a rod-shaped component is surrounded by a tubular wrapper carrying a deformable strip, comprising:

a rolling unit having surfaces defining a channel and including first and second surfaces at least one of which moves relative to the other thereof, said channel having an inlet and an outlet;

means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the strips thereabout in a first portion of the channel at said inlet; and

means for changing the permeability of the wrappers during rolling at least in a second portion of the channel between said first portion and said outlet,

wherein a portion of one of the first and second surfaces is stationary and flat, and wherein said rolling unit includes a first endless band flanking said first portion of said channel and two additional endless bands spaced apart from each other and flanking said second portion of said channel, said means for changing the permeability of the wrappers including a perforating unit arranged to perforate the wrappers of successive products in said second portion of said channel by way of a clearance between said additional bands.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said rolling unit includes means for convoluting the strips about the tubular wrappers.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said rolling unit includes means for convoluting the strips about the tubular wrappers.